HUMAN EVENTS

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News Section

Printed in Two Sections

Talk On Capitol Hill: After his appeasing address at Oberlin College, Adlai Stevenson is nicknamed "The American Nehru."

● Some Republican Senators fear that Eisenhower at the Big Four Conference will offer to go along with admission of Red China to the UN. Then, it is believed, Knowland will really cut loose.

● One member of a foreign relations committee relates what diplomatic row is saying about the Big Four Conference, namely: that the biggest hazard of all is that the Western powers in dealing with Khrushchev really have no assurance that any deal made can last longer than a month or so. The foreign diplomats believe that the contest for power among the leaders in the Kremlin is so acute and the outcome so uncertain that Khrushchev might well be liquidated before the ink on an agreement is dry.

● Senator George of Georgia, in his new incarnation as collaborator with the White House is referred to as the "Democratic Vandenberg." This recalls the phase, 1946-50, when the late Republican Senator Arthur Vandenberg played ball with President Truman and assured that Democratic President of passage of his foreign measures. Veteran Senators also recall that Vandenberg's "literary mentor" was James E. "Scotty" Reston of the *New York Times*; and he's now reportedly writing George's speeches. The pro-British *New York Times* man is jocularly known as the "man from up on Massachusetts Avenue," referring to the British Embassy which is located on that thoroughfare.

● Senator Lyndon Johnson of Texas, Democratic Leader of the Senate, is touted — in the Democratic cloakroom — as the man to lead his Party out of the cloakroom and into the White House. In short, he's supposed to be the answer to the agony of the Democratic Party, in frantic search of a Presidential candidate. Argument is — he's not "fly-blown" like Stevenson; nor silly like Harriman; nor unacceptable to the South like both those men; at the same time, he is a New Dealer and wouldn't be opposed by the Labor Bosses. In short, no one hates him. Around the Capitol, his boom is growing fast.

● Over one table in the Senate restaurant, much interest in a story about U.S. European Commander General Alfred M. Gruenther. On a recent visit to Rome to see Italian military leaders, Gruenther had an audience with the Pope. Gruenther is a Roman Catholic, but his visit was not for spiritual, but for diplomatic reasons. He told the Holy Father that he had noticed that a number of Catholic prelates in Western Europe had seemingly fallen for the "neutralist" line prevalent in their localities; that as a Catholic, he was sorry to see this, for it was decidedly against American interests. Then he explained fully American military considerations in defending Western Europe. The General was gratified to find the Pontiff sympathetic, but was particularly impressed by the Pope's keen knowledge of military matters.

● The White House Palace Guard, in mounting a new offensive against GOP Senate Leader Knowland, proposes to dub him "McCarthy — with a necktie."

Labor Front: *Ford Naiveté*: Labor editors are remarking about the difference between the Ford and GM attitude in signing on Reuther's dotted line. The Ford comment: "Everybody won. The public won." The GM shrewd comment: "It's a bitter pill to swallow."

● *Too Little Too Late:* The National Association of Manufacturers ran full-page advertising exposing the fallacies of GAW. When did the ads appear? On the day Ford signed on Reuther's dotted line!

Scores of newspapers ran editorials on GAW expressing sentiments like this: "GAW will mean more pay for a smaller proportion of the workers. . . ." "Likely to lead to a stagnating economy. . . ." ". . . . Mergers will follow mergers until the industry of the country will be made up of great corporations. . . . American industry may become more timid and cautious. Free enterprise could lose much of its vigor."

When were these editorials printed? The day after the irrevocable decision had been made!

● *The Battle of Slogans*: ADA-CIO-New Deal columnists have been surprised at their failure to sell their slogan: "Ford is a traitor to his class." Too often for their peace of mind, they get the retort: "Yes, Ford is a traitor — not to his class, but to the coming generation."

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● *Losers*: American Motors lost $654,000 during the first quarter of this year when the automobile industry was booming. Nevertheless, Vice President Leonard of the United Auto Workers said: "We must seek an annual wage from American Motors. Their employees need it even more than the bigger firms. There have been many ups and downs of employment and unemployment among AMC workers."

The American Motors and Studebaker-Packard stocks are selling at new lows in anticipation of being forced to sign "GAW" contracts. The more intelligent workers of these two companies are disturbed by the prospect; they realize that they will get insecurity out of the security gained for Ford and GM UAW members.

Evacuation Washington: Few in the nation's capital paid any attention to, if indeed they were not completely unaware of, the mock evacuation of Washington, part of the country's "air raid drill" on June 15. What did "alert" those accustomed to Government propaganda was a statement of a high functionary in the local Civil Defense setup. John Garrett Underhill, District Deputy Director, called it all a "dangerous farce," imposed on the local officials by federal orders and "so inadequate it couldn't cope with a brush fire threatening a doghouse in the backyard." By order of a White House appointee, Underhill was instantly and summarily fired. Some members of Congress commented: "The debunking of civil defense has just begun."

Internal Security: On Capitol Hill, Communists, fellow-travellers, and other varieties of the Marx virus, have skillfully blocked a bill regarded as indispensable to the Nation's internal security. The bill (S.681) was proposed by the Defense Department, strongly indorsed by the Department of Justice and introduced by Senator Butler of Maryland.

Government experts say that there are some 2000 trained saboteurs and espionage agents of the Kremlin strategically distributed in key defense factories. Many of these have already been exposed as Fifth Amendment Communists, but private employers cannot remove them without protracted court proceedings involving the risk that broad-minded judges may salvage a considerable number on the ground that the evidence submitted was inadequate (by New Deal standards.)

The Justice Department claims that existing Federal law is insufficient to enable the Administration to proceed expeditiously against this dangerous ring, the names of whose members and their exact position in every factory are known to the FBI. Pentagon authorities have expressed the frank opinion that, if the Butler legislation is shelved, within a day or so the nation's heavy industries (source of weapons) could be effectively sabotaged in case of war.

The tragic fact is that unions pronounced by committees of Congress as Communist-dominated have, all during the "cold war" with Russia, continued to control workers engaged in critical war production work. It is believed that already secret industrial processes have been transmitted to the Kremlin, via the ring. The McCarthy Committee turned up much shocking evidence on this score.

Almost unbelievable is the fact that Western Union's overseas cables to Europe and RCA's radiograms to Europe are still operated by Communist-controlled workers. As far back as 1952 J. L. Wilcox, Western Union VP, pointing out that confidential Pentagon dispatches to our military allies in Europe often passed through these workers' hands, described the situation as "extremely hazardous" to national security. Recently former Governor Wilbur M. Brucker (now General Counsel to the Defense Department) admitted that "restricted" messages of the Pentagon were still passing through this dangerous bottleneck. The Governor literally pleaded for Congress to pass the Butler bill.

> **While those restricted messages which are in code, if deciphered by Kremlin stooges, would not entirely tip our hand as compared with "top secret" dispatches, such messages — it is pointed out — afford the opportunity to crack our military code and we have no assurance that this has not already happened.**

Opposing passage of the Butler bill is the CIO which continually boasts that in 1950 it expelled some 11 Communist-dominated unions, which are still operating.

The question is asked on Capitol Hill: Will the President who has not hesitated to intervene on Capitol Hill on such measures as the Bricker amendment, foreign aid, etc., draw back from saving the Butler bill which the Pentagon and the Justice Department regard as indispensable to the security of the nation?

Leapfrog Socialism: The Administration plumped for a 7½ percent pay boost for civil servants. The Democrats jumped this figure to 8 percent or more. Today the decision lies in a welter of parliamentary moves. The State Chambers of Commerce last March, in a detailed analysis of the issue, showed that a pay raise of about 3 percent for these government employees would be ample.

Mrs. Hobby of the Department of Health, Welfare and Education wants free polio vaccine shots for the "needy" kids; the Democrats, via Senator

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Hill (Ala.), want shots for all children (through the age of 19) free. Why the "needy" could not be given free shots at the expense of private foundations, Mrs. Hobby does not explain. Nor did Senator Hill explain why "free for all" shots for polio, but nothing for a dozen other diseases. In this connection,

> **why — ask some doctors — do not foundations concentrate on the problem of juvenile rheumatic fever which, they say, is a far greater killer than polio? Yet — they point out — the limelight and funds go to the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis which finds publicity response on the basis of the disease of a long-dead President.**

Be that as it may. Observers here regard this "leap-frog socialism" pattern—with the Democrats seeking to out-spend the GOP Administration on a dozen different issues — as one which will in all probability intensify as next year's election draws near. Of course, it is remarked, it may be that the Republican Administration may retain some conservative support because it does not now go as far in demagogic spending as the Democrats demand. But, it is asked, "By November, 1956, how much difference will there be between the two contestants in the leapfrog game?"

Minimum Wage: It is eminently desirable, politically, that the unskilled worker receive a "fair" wage. Congress now has before it a proposition to increase the minimum, and the Administration wants it raised to 90 cents an hour. Labor unions are demanding that it be $1.25. Indications are that $1 will be the level Congress picks. Raising it to just 90 cents would — the Labor Department estimates — add $250,000,000 to the country's annual wage bill. If this were all the inflation involved in the step, it might not be troublesome.

But there is more here than meets the eye. Dr. Emerson P. Schmidt, U.S. Chamber of Commerce economist, holds that raising the minimum wage will stimulate wage-hike demands all up the line. The $250,000,000 cost ultimately is multiplied and inflation will get another big boost. This arises from one solid fact: "wage differentials," which — Schmidt notes — are highly prized by workers and others. The differentials give workers the motive to strive to improve themselves. Raising the minimum wage tends to eradicate differentials. During three successive minimum wage boosts in France, according to an article in the *American Economic Review*, wages of skilled and unskilled labor kept the same relative positions. That is, an increased minimum wage caused all wage rates to rise. In short, the $1 minimum wage coming on the morrow of GAW spells more inflation.

Hoover's Fables: The former President knows he has a difficult job getting the government to submit to his economy proposals. He has deployed all his arts of argument, oratory, diplomacy. Now he turns on his own particular wry humor, in the form of what he calls fables.

"Once upon a time," Mr. Hoover relates, "complications happened in government and the young doctors were called in. They gave all the verbal injections for the viruses, and the verbal antibiotics for balancing the budget. Yet the budget did not balance. So, the old family doctor was called in for consultation. He thumped about a bit and came up with an idea. He said, take two anti-waste pills every morning and night. But the patients all moaned and said, 'But Doctor, that will destroy our morale.' "

Next: "Once upon a time a mere citizen-reformer tried to quickly reform a political mind. But he said, 'You don't know the art of being a reformer. Reforms begin after the next election.' "

And Mr. Hoover's final fable was: "Once upon a time, the Commission on Reorganization of the Government said some restraining words affecting one of the 1,000 pressure groups represented in Washington. The pressure group said, 'We deeply respect your words. But it is only the other 999 pressure groups that are badly in need of reform and we will help you.' They said our appropriations are very necessary. Our Commission opined that they could spell the words 'very necessary' with less than 9 ciphers attached to it. Their reply was, 'Our spelling is absolutely necessary to save the Republic.' "

Patriotic Advertising: Attention is focussed on an example of institutional advertising, for public service and education, offered by the Gray Manufacturing Company, Hartford, Conn., makers of audograph dictation equipment. These ads, placed in national magazines, have reportedly had a sound response from those who see them. A current one, in two colors, is headed the "Peace of the Bear," with Kipling's lines, "That is the time of peril — the time of the Truce of the Bear" (as quoted in our recent article by Miss Utley, "The Truce of the Bear.") Below the title is the well-known quotation from Dmitri Manuilsky, Soviet official, in an address to the Lenin School of Political Warfare, in 1931, referring to the inevitability of "war to the hilt between Communism and Capitalism." Other Gray ads feature Taft, MacArthur, Van Fleet, Radford, Hoover and other national figures and timely bits of wisdom from their utterances.

Book Front: (Sharp-eyed Washington observers noted this week the extensive display of the following pamphlet, reviewed below, on newsstands.

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"Stand sales" of such a production often prove costly to the publishing house involved. The publisher is not a "standard" publisher of such items, operating in the mass field. Therefore, many here wonder who is "behind" the offering and why it is issued, at this juncture, before the Big Four Conference.)

An American Policy in Asia, by W. W. Rostow with Richard W. Hatch. The Technology Press of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 379 pages, $5.00. Paper Edition, $1.00. British Publishers: Chapman and Hare. Reviewed by Freda Utley.

Hitler advocated "strength through joy." The Center for International Studies at MIT apparently believes in the even more attractive slogan of "salvation through ignorance." "It was decided," writes its Director, in his preface to this book, that, "an important service could be performed by launching a fresh examination of the nature of Chinese society" by assigning to "the direction of this task a man with no background whatsoever in the China field." Professor Rostow has now produced, in collaboration with his colleagues at MIT, this book of recommendations of what our Asiatic policy should be.

And they turn out to be just what the British Government ordered, and what would appear to be the current line of the White House Palace Guard. They include the following: Admit Red China to the United Nations (while not necessarily "recognizing" her), provided that Peking "accepts Formosa's independent status in the Free World;" give China's seat on the Security Council to India; "take common action to prevent the Japanese efforts to solve its trade problems from upsetting the precarious British trade equilibrium;" give more aid to India without "linking economic assistance to military aid;" and a five-year "aid-to-Asia" of $6½ billions.

The authors actually recognize that there is an armed aggressive Communist menace in Asia. But they give far more weight to its alleged appeal to the poor and to its political influence. They are so ignorant both of Communism and human nature that they fail to realize that it is the desire to be on the winning side, coupled with fear of the terrible fate which awaits all who have resisted Communism should our side lose, which impels the weak to "choose" Communism. Rostow fails to understand that lack of confidence in our resolution or ability to use our power to defeat Communism is the reason why we lose friends and fail to influence people. And he wants us to convince the nations of Asia that we are too peace-loving to use our guns to defend our friends. According to his recommendations, the American Atlas should sustain the whole "Free World" without demanding any *quid pro quo* in the shape of guarantees that those we help will take our side. We should supply some guns, but mainly butter, and give most help to those who can be relied upon not to use the guns.

In general the viewpoint of this book can best be described as Neo-Lattimorism. It ascribes the Communist conquest of China, not to the lack of arms and ammunition denied to the Free Chinese by General Marshall, but to "the emotional and intellectual commitments of the people." It sketches in the ugly realities of Chinese Communist rule but, nevertheless, assures us that Communism still has the "power of attraction" in Asia which Lattimore used to say the Soviet Union had for all the "underprivileged" nations of the world.

The book tells us that we should force the Free Chinese to abandon their "dream" of liberating the Chinese mainland. According to its recommendations, the Free Chinese should be compelled to commit themselves to avoid "acts of military provocation against the mainland," thus ruling out any possibility of freeing the Chinese people from Communist oppression, as our conditions for permitting them to defend Formosa and the American stake in the Pacific. Chiang Kai-shek is to be assured of continuing American aid and support provided that he promises *not* to fight against our mutual enemies.

The authors of this curious book admit that it may be difficult to sustain Free Chinese morale under these conditions. But they assure us that our Chinese allies can be persuaded to "live with the reality of the distant and perhaps unobtainable ideal goal" by concentrating on the creation of a model democratic society with "progressive" aims in Formosa. The hope of Pie in the Sky is to reconcile them to abandonment of all hope for their families, friends and countrymen here below.

Letter from THE HONORABLE GOODWIN J. KNIGHT, Governor, State of California: "One of the responsibilities of anyone in public life is to keep posted on current events and trends. HUMAN EVENTS uniquely fills a need in this respect. Its clear, concise and comprehensive information is frequently referred to in the executive research library at Sacramento."

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Article Section

PROGRESSIVE JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

By FRANK CHODOROV

A COP MAY NOT be a reliable theoretician, but you can depend on his factual observations. They have the force of common sense.

One of New York City's "finest" brought in a 13-year-old ragamuffin who had taken a day off from school to break a window and purloin some property. The culprit was hardly contrite. Brazenly he informed the desk sergeant that "you can't do nuthin' to me. I ain't sixteen and what I done is only a misdemeanor, that's what it is. You can't do nuthin' to me."

He knew the law, even if he was deficient in grammar. If he had been sixteen or over, the violation would have been classed as a crime and the punishment accordingly more severe, but since he was only thirteen, it was a misdemeanor, with a minor penalty attached.

The policeman remarked ruefully, "In my day, that boy would have been set straight by a ruler across the knuckles; and if that did not help, a proper tanning by his father would. It's this progressive stuff that's the cause of so much juvenile delinquency."

The minion of the law probably knew nothing of what goes by the name of "progressive" education, and certainly would have some difficulty in showing a cause and effect relationship between it and the spread of juvenile delinquency, but his observation had some validity. He knew that "Teen Age Violence" is on the increase, not only because he reads about it in a column so headed in the policemen's trade paper, but more so from his daily experiences. Moreover, "progressivism" is a topic of conversation in the station house, where those whose children attend parochial schools proudly point out the disciplinary effect of corporal punishment.

"Progressivism" is more than "progressive" education, though the two are within the same frame of thought. It involves the law, the administration of the law, the public attitude toward the rearing of children and the *obiter dicta* of the psychological "experts" who call themselves social workers. Philosophically, it is traceable to the idea that all children are by nature "good," and will so develop if their environmental conditioning is conducive to "goodness." It denies any inherent traits in the individual or the possibility of channeling these traits along socially desirable lines by disciplinary measures. The word "discipline" — whether applied to studies or to moral values — is anathema to "progressivism."

INCLUDED IN "PROGRESSIVISM" are the compulsory school attendance laws. In New York City, the law requires attendance of all children up to the age of seventeen, unless by that time they have graduated from high school. It is obvious that this com-

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pulsion is applicable only to those who have no desire or capacity for learning, no matter how low the school standards may be; if they showed any intellectual inclinations, there would be no need for the compulsion. They hate school. Forced attendance generates rebellion — against regulations, the teachers, the parents who try to comply with the law, and, by truancy, against the law itself.

Recent investigations reveal the fact that truancy in the New York schools has increased to a point where the enforcement agency is unable to cope with it. Characteristically, "progressivism" demands an increase in the number of truancy officers. The underlying cause of truancy — that the child compelled to go to school when he has no fitness for education is acting normally when he "plays hookey" — is completely ignored.

There is a provision in the law that permits children who have reached the age of fifteen to go to work, provided they attend "continuation" classes for at least four hours a week. The employed boy is required to show his employer weekly evidence of his having complied with this law. Since the boy has no stomach for school in the first place, he is not likely to take kindly to the "continuation" classes he is compelled to attend. He becomes a nuisance there, as well as an evil influence.

A principal of a vocational high school reports that four percent of his enrollment consists of these "continuation" cases, and that they are the cause of much disturbance in the school. They cannot be disciplined or thrown out of school. They are in a privileged position and are prone to take advantage of it. The younger children are either afraid of these bullies or admire them, and in the latter case, tend to emulate them. Discipline is out of the question, and learning is impossible. Disrespect for teachers is a prelude to disrespect for the law.

When compulsory attendance was first introduced into the public school system, the age limit was fourteen. If by that time the boy showed no inclination for learning, he went to work and he gained a sense of self-respect and belonging by doing something useful, something he was fitted for, and by earning money. Sometimes, ambitious parents pushed him into high school; but if he could not make the grade, he was automatically dismissed; there was no need for the authorities to lower the standards of learning to meet the mental capacities of pupils that were forced on them. And the boy who was dismissed, or who dropped out, found a useful and respected place in society.

"Progressivism" changed all that — by law. Labor union leaders, bent on maintaining their monopoly of jobs, favored the raising of the compulsory school age limit, so that the pressure of new workers on the labor supply would be reduced; the law supplemented their campaign to eliminate the apprentice system, and they too became "progressive."

Yet the fact remained that many of the children were simply incapable of grasping high school subject matter. How did the "progressives" meet this fact? First, by lowering the standards in what used to be called classical high schools to fit the level of the

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mediocre mentalities, and to the disadvantage of the more gifted; then, by establishing, at the taxpayers' expense, vocational apprenticeship institutions which they are pleased to call high schools.

But, neither device solved the problem of the teenager who "wants out;" compulsory attendance is what he resents and rebels against. He becomes a truant. And on the streets, he meets other truants, equally restless, and out of these meetings emerge schemes of juvenile delinquents. The practical police recognize this fact; in some districts they are under orders to break up street gatherings of three or more boys.

Now that "progressivism" has reared a criminal problem of major proportions, it comes forward with a solution which is based, as always, on the unsubstantiated doctrine of environmentalism. They are presently pressing the politicians of New York for an appropriation for increased "recreational" facilities. Their theory is that boys who are kept active at play will not go bad. How the after-school playground, with its own regulations and rules, will offset the resentment at being forced to attend school, is not explained.

Nor do the "progressives" mention the fact, known to policemen, that crimes have been hatched in these hothouse "recreational" centers. At one of them, according to the police records, a robbery that turned into murder was planned by two ruffians, one fourteen, the other sixteen, who quickly returned to the center after the crime in order to establish an alibi. An accomplice, who did not accompany them, testified that the two had not left the place all evening.

Boys have always played games; yes, even before there were regulated playgrounds. They played because they wanted to, and used their own ingenuity to provide the means and to set the rules of play. Under these conditions, playing is most satisfying, because it is a form of accomplishment. And self-discipline is a natural result of the hard competitive conditions that boys, left to themselves, will impose. But, where play is dominated by a theoretical "social worker," it loses the exhilaration of spontaneity and tends to be mere diversion from boredom. An anti-social venture is more alluring.

A TELLING FOOTNOTE on "progressivism" appeared in the public press recently. A New York judge, reflecting on the increase of juvenile delinquency, came up with the observation that not one Chinese-American boy had been brought before him in his seventeen years on the bench. Remarking on this fact to other judges, he learned that their experience coincided with his. Chicago and San Francisco authorities reported likewise.

P. H. Chang, Chinese consul-general in New York City, was asked to comment on this remarkable statistic. As reported in the *Saturday Evening Post* (April 30, 1955), he said: "A Chinese child, no matter where he lives, is brought up to recognize that he cannot shame his parents. . . . Before a Chinese child makes a move, he stops to think

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what the reaction on his parents will be. Will they be proud or will they be ashamed? That is the sole question he asks himself."

That is to say, the Chinese child is disciplined to a moral value; so much so that it guides his behavior. On the other hand, "progressivism" rejects all moral values and discounts all discipline. Morals, say these educators, are merely social conventions, traditions, which stultify the development of the child; they burden him with responsibility for values he had no hand in shaping. To impose these values on him is to tie him to the dead past.

The function of education, insist the "progressives," is to permit the child to develop a feeling of happiness, and this can be accomplished only by letting him do as he pleases; inhibitions and prohibitions deny him the opportunity to be happy. The only obligation of the child is to make adjustment to the mores of his time, whatever they are, so that he can develop a sense of belonging. He can be happy only when he is one of the crowd. Thus, though they would not put it that way, if Hitlerism were the going order of things, his adjustment to these values would satisfy his need for being happy.

Yet, as every parent knows, this denial of absolute right and absolute wrong does not satisfy the child, and does not make him happy. He craves guidance. If there is no good and no bad, by what star will he guide his behavior? His everlasting "why" evidences an inner need for direction. He is happy only when his groping is charted by a purpose that has the approbation of his elders. He seeks discipline and the sense of responsibility that it puts upon him. Without discipline or responsibility, he becomes a restless vagrant on the road to nowhere. And, in time, he becomes a juvenile delinquent.

Even then the "progressives" are not through with him. If he is a day under sixteen when he transgresses, he must be subjected to one "corrective" environment; if he is a day older, the environment must be changed accordingly. In a way, they are right; since he has been denied any moral guide by which to judge and control himself, some outside restraint must be put on him. But, he cannot be "cured" by environment; the only effective therapy is self-discipline, geared to a moral guide, which, the "progressives" say, does not exist.

In this connection, it is interesting to note the emphasis put by the environmentalists on the "broken home" theory of juvenile delinquency. The police files, however, do not support them; quite often, a wayward child will emerge from a home that does not fit that pattern. Neither does the theory hold up when we reflect that among our law-abiding and useful citizens are many whose parents were separated. This is no argument for divorce, but it casts a shadow on the "broken home" theory.

Finally, a useful inquiry into juvenile delinquency might proceed from the fact that the problem arose and grew as "progressivism" took hold of our educational system. Is this a coincidence? Or is juvenile delinquency the effect and "progressive education" the cause?

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